Seems Complete

That evening, as he boarded his plane for Thailand, he made the first confession of fatigue.

"I have never been so tired in my life," he told his staff. Despite that, when he got to Korat, the U.S. base in Thailand, he conferred for three hours with American officers at the Officers Club. By that time it was 3 a.m. in Melbourne.

Error Corrected

William Freedman, Detroit —This column was in error in reporting that Walter Sheridan of NBC had prepared replies for a Negro participant in the Detroit riot, James Wiggens, for an NBC interview.

The Detroit News carried a story in which Wiggens claimed he had been interviewed by NBC at the Wayne County jail and that NBC had told him how to answer the questions. But the next day the Detroit News printed the facts, which completely corrected this. Later, Wiggens admitted he had not been interviewed and that he was not the person shown on the NBC program with Sheridan. We regret the mistake and are delighted to correct the error.

Sheridan did help lead a raid of Federal men on an alleged Negro arsenal outside Selma, Ala., which turned out to be nothing more than a manure pile. But he acted in good faith by tipping off the proper authorities.

Disappearing Custom

Helen Blumberg, Anaheim, Calif.—It was formerly customary for Presidents to hold open house at the White House on New Year's Day, to greet anyone who wished to call. During Pearson's early days in Washington, Calvin Coolidge always shook hands with any of the people who wanted to file through the White House. They were not screened.

Marie Smith of the Washington Post is the best authority on this in her book, "Entertaining in the White House." She tells how Herbert Hoover abolished the handshaking tradition when he abruptly left the receiving line after hours of painful handshaking. No other President has resumed the custom.

During New Year's Day in Lincoln's administration, he left the receiving line to go upstairs in the White House to sign the Emancipation Proclamation. His hands were so cramped and sore from intensive handshaking, recounts Marie Smith, that he feared someone might question his signature.

The champion handshaker was President McKinley, who on a New Year's Day clasped 4916 hands in less than two hours, or an average of 46 per minute.

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